

**From:** Daniel Bakstad  
**To:** Attorney General John Ashcroft  
**Date:** 1/18/02 10:40am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

January 18, 2002

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

As one of America's largest employers, Microsoft has been unwisely targeted in this antitrust dispute, especially when you consider the current state of the American economy. Microsoft is a successful company, built by the standards of the American dream. The attack on this company is an attack on the American dream.

The settlement that has been reached is a good one in spite of the rather harsh terms that Microsoft will be complying with. For example, Microsoft has agreed to document and disclose for use by its competitors various interfaces that are internal to Windows' operating system products-a first in an antitrust settlement. The most important thing, at this point, is just to get this litigation behind us so we can focus on more important issues.

Thank you for all that you have done in bringing about this settlement. Your decision to settle has shown true foresight and wisdom on your part. Hopefully, the remaining nine states still pursuing litigation will soon see the wisdom of this settlement. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Daniel Bakstad  
1301 Stonehurst Dr  
Anderson, SC 29621